



# NORTH DAKOTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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## Update on Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site Stabilization Project

By Fern Swenson

Double Ditch Indian Village was a major city and trading center from the late 1400s to the late 1700s. Thousands of people lived and were buried at this site for more than 300 years—spanning 10 generations of Mandan Indians. The Mandans, who live today throughout much of North Dakota and the northern Great Plains, were North Dakota's first agriculturalists, cultivating hundreds of acres of gardens near the 24-acre village. This village, first established with a population of about 2000, was larger than 93 percent of ND communities today. According to Mandan oral history, Double Ditch was one of seven to



*Above left: Detail of Double Ditch Village illustration from the cyclorama at the North Dakota Heritage Center (Photo courtesy SHSND); Above right: 1988 aerial photo of Double Ditch State Historic Site (Photo by University of North Dakota )*

nine villages simultaneously occupied near the confluence of the Missouri and Heart rivers. These earthlodge villages were centers of trade between the Mandans, their nomadic neighbors, and later, Euroamerican traders. A massive smallpox epidemic swept the interior of North America about 1781-1782. This catastrophe was apparently responsible for the abandonment of Double Ditch and all the other Mandan villages near the Heart River. The Mandans then moved upriver near the Hidatsas at the Knife River. Today the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation's tribal headquarters are at Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota.

Major slumping at the site occurred after the 2011 flood. From the river's edge approximately 100 feet of land became unstable and rotational slumping (continued, p. 2)

## Update on Double Ditch (continued)



Above: A view of the eroded area in 2013 (Photo courtesy SHSND)

resulted in exposing multiple tension cracks. Human burials were exposed in these cracks.

The State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) manages the site. Working with the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA) the burials exposed prior to the initiation of construction were recovered and reinterred. MHA and the SHSND knew it was critical that the bank be stabilized. Double Ditch preserves a cultural identity and an internationally known archaeological treasure in North Dakota. This is a human story—past and present.

*“The Mandan people fully support this important project to protect this land and the burial grounds of our ancestors. . . This is a sacred, special place in North Dakota that has great historical significance worldwide. We have been aware that burials would be exposed because of slumping and efforts to save the site. Our goal is to protect this education resource for future generations and to pay proper respect to the people who are buried here.”*

—Calvin Grinnell, historian for the MHA Nation and State Historical Society board member

The 2013 and 2015 North Dakota Legislative Assemblies appropriated \$3.5 million to stabilize 2,200 linear feet of the Double Ditch site riverbank. The funding solution included General Fund dollars and State Disaster Relief Funds. The State Historical Society staff and representatives from MHA worked together to select an engineering firm to design the stabilization to protect the resource keeping in mind the sensitive nature of this work and site. (continued, p. 3)



Above left: Rock key / trench being installed (Photo by Dwayne Walker);  
Above right: Pipe piles being installed (Photo courtesy SHSND)

## Update on Double Ditch (continued)

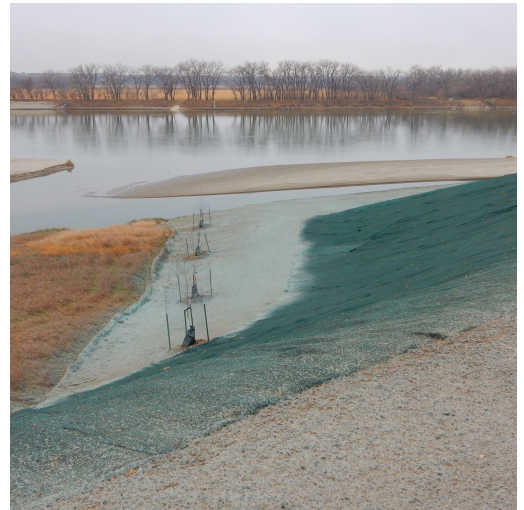
Atwell Engineers LLC teamed up with Water Resources Solutions LLC, Wildhorse Riverworks Inc, and Braun Intertec to develop a stabilization plan. The engineering plan involved reshaping the bank by removing weight from the upslope and adding weight to the toe. The rock key/trench and pipe piles provided mass and strength to stabilize the slope. The construction was designed to stay within the previously disturbed areas (eroded area and the original location of highway 1804 along the river bank).

Veit & Company Inc. was awarded the construction contract. With the start of the construction project in mid-July, it was anticipated that additional burials would be identified, particularly in the slump area that needed substantial reshaping. The SHSND worked together with tribal leadership at MHA long before any ground was moved to plan for removal of exposed burials in keeping with cultural traditions and state laws. Once construction began the archaeologists at the State Historical Society worked closely with MHA and Veit to identify and recover the burials. One hundred ninety-eight burials were exposed—all human remains and associated burial goods will be repatriated to the MHA and interred in private ceremonies of the MHA Nation.

After the construction phase the riverbank was planted with a variety of native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees. (continued, p. 4)



*Left, Some of the work crew (left to right):  
Baldomero Castillo  
"Cabo" (Veit backhoe operator),  
John Fay "Johnny" (Veit site supervisor),  
Paul Picha,  
Brooke Morgan,  
Meagan Schoenfelder,  
and Timothy Reed  
(SHSND archaeologists)  
(Photo by Fern Swenson)*



*Overview of the south end illustrating the reshaped bank where the rotational slumping occurred (Photo by Dwayne Walker)*



*Above: New plantings  
(Photos courtesy SHSND)*

## Update on Double Ditch (continued)

The construction phase to stabilize Double Ditch Indian Village was completed in November! What a relief and thanks to all involved in the cooperation of many entities to ensure this project was accomplished respectfully and in a timely manner. The stabilization project was difficult and all involved continuously kept in mind the purpose – preserving the site and preventing future burials from being exposed due to the massive erosion that was occurring.

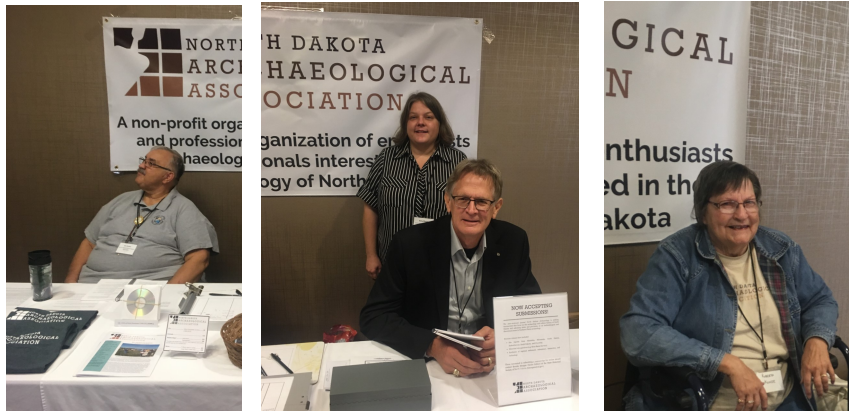
MHA and the SHSND are planning a celebration of the successful completion and collaboration of this important project for the summer of 2018. By that time the vegetation should be developing. Benches and interpretive signs will be installed. The stabilized and reshaped bank will protect the Mandan village and enhance fishing access to the river, bird watching/wildlife, and provide a non-motorized landing for kayaks and canoes landing.



*Overview of the north end of the project area showing non-motorized kayak and canoe landing (Photo by Dwayne Walker)*

## 2017 Plains Anthropological Conference

By Meagan Schoenfelder



*Some of the NDAA members staffing the NDAA table (left to right): Jim Carter, Amy Bleier and Doug Wurtz, and Roberta Kunze (Photos by Meagan Schoenfelder)*

The 2017 Plains Anthropological Society's annual conference was held this year in Bismarck, ND. More than three hundred anthropologists attended including students, professionals, and avocationalists. Attendees presented posters, papers, and forums on culture, language, history, and archaeology of the plains. Optional tours of archaeological and historic sites were given, and a reception was hosted at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Vendors offering goods or services related to anthropology also were present.

This year's banquet key note speaker was Dr. William Hunt, Jr. Dr. Hunt shared his interest in African American homesteading and his participation in exploring the history and archaeology of (continued, p. 5)

## 2017 Plains Anthropological Conference (continued)

DeWitty (later Audacious), Nebraska (for more information on DeWitty visit <https://nebraskaarchaeology.org/author/nebraskaarchaeology/> and <http://descendantsofdewitty.org/> ).

The NDAA operated a vendor table with much success. Our members sold copies of past *North Dakota Archaeology* journals, T-shirts, and memberships were sold. They handed out pamphlets on the Cynthia Kordecki Scholarship and fliers requesting submissions for the NDAA journal. NDAA members staffing the table were available for questions and conversation, and even found time to attend some of the sessions.

The NDAA wishes to thank all those who volunteered to help at the conference, and particularly those who helped run the vendor table: Amy Bleier, Jim Carter, Damita Engel, Roberta Kunze, Kim Troendle, Wendi Field Murray, Meagan Schoenfelder, and Doug Wurtz.

### Save the Date

Traditional Technologies is held the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month in Project Room A, 10 AM-Noon, at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Have an idea and just need a place to work on it? A traditional craft? An experiment? Join other NDAA members and SHSND staff in a space reserved to work on projects like flintknapping, groundstone tool making, bag twining, and more!



**January 5th**—Traditional Technologies, Project Room A, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, 10 AM-Noon

**January 19th**—Traditional Technologies, Project Room A, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, 10 AM-Noon

**February 2nd**—Traditional Technologies, Project Room A, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, 10 AM-Noon

**February 16th**—Traditional Technologies, Project Room A, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, 10 AM-Noon

**March 2nd**—Traditional Technologies, Project Room A, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, 10 AM-Noon

**March 16th**—Traditional Technologies, Project Room A, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, 10 AM-Noon

### NDAA Newsletter Submissions

Have an event that should be included on the NDAA calendar? Have a submission to make, an NDAA-related news item, article, book review, or photo that you would like to submit?

Please contact NDAA Newsletter Editor Meagan Schoenfelder at [mschoenfelder@nd.gov](mailto:mschoenfelder@nd.gov).

### NDAA Officers & Contacts

**Wendi Field Murray** — President ([wmurray@nd.gov](mailto:wmurray@nd.gov))

**Doug Wurtz** — Vice President ([dwurtz@bis.midco.net](mailto:dwurtz@bis.midco.net))

**Amie Kaiser** — Secretary/Treasurer ([akaiser@metcalfarchaeology.com](mailto:akaiser@metcalfarchaeology.com))

**Meagan Schoenfelder** — Newsletter Editor ([mschoenfelder@nd.gov](mailto:mschoenfelder@nd.gov))



Left to Right: Wendi Field Murray, Doug Wurtz, Amie Kaiser, and Meagan Schoenfelder

## North Dakota Archaeology Journal Update

By Meagan Schoenfelder



*Incoming journal editor, Brooke Morgan, conducting fieldwork in Morton County (Photo by Guinn Hinman)*

The NDAA executive committee is excited to announce Dr. Brooke Morgan as the new editor of the NDAA journal, *North Dakota Archaeology* (for more about Brooke, see p. 7-8).

The journal is now accepting submissions (see below for more details or visit our website at [http://www.ndarchaeology.org/nda\\_journal\\_call\\_for\\_submissions.html](http://www.ndarchaeology.org/nda_journal_call_for_submissions.html)).

The new volume will be printed in the coming year.

The NDAA wishes to extend many thanks to outgoing journal editor, Paul Picha, for all of his work and assistance.



*Outgoing journal editor, Paul Picha ready to monitor work at Double Ditch State*

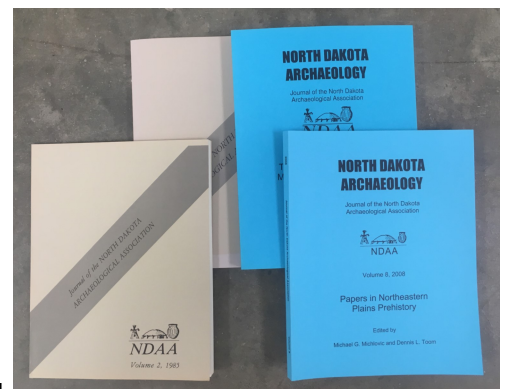
## North Dakota Archaeology Journal: Now Accepting Submissions!

By Brooke Morgan

The peer-reviewed journal *North Dakota Archaeology* is seeking manuscripts that focus on the archaeology and culture history of North Dakota and adjoining states and provinces, or on methodological and theoretical issues in Northern Plains archaeology.

Previous volumes have included:

- Site reports from Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Historical retrospectives (e.g. River Basin Surveys)
- Syntheses of regional settlement, subsistence, interaction, and technology



For consideration for the 2018 volume, submissions must be received by **January 15, 2018**. The style guide is the same format used by *Plains Anthropologist*, and is available online:

<http://www.plainsanthropologicalsociety.org/sites/default/files/styleguide.pdf>

Those interested in submitting a manuscript for review should contact Brooke Morgan (Series Editor) at the State Historical Society of North Dakota ([bmorgan@nd.gov](mailto:bmorgan@nd.gov)).

## Member Profile: Brooke Morgan

By Brooke Morgan & Meagan Schoenfelder

### ***What is your background? Birthplace, upbringing, education, current residency, etc.***

I was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, but we moved to the Chicagoland region (where the rest of my family is) when I was about two years old. I was raised in both urban (Chicago) and rural (Indiana) settings, and have learned the benefits and drawbacks of both. I completed my undergraduate education at Loyola University Chicago, where I double-majored in Anthropology and Environmental Studies. I pursued my graduate degrees at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and I earned my MA in 2010 and my PhD in 2015. I moved to Bismarck in August 2015, and started working at the SHSND that September. I had previously worked in North Dakota on the Beacon Island project (2006) and in the Little Missouri National Grasslands (2013).

### ***How did you become interested in archaeology?***

Ancient Egypt was what first caught my attention as a child, but I soon learned that archaeology was about much more than elaborate tombs and pyramids (although those are very cool). I volunteered in the Loyola archaeology lab my first semester of undergrad, where I worked on materials from a Clovis Paleoindian site in southwestern Illinois. I got hooked on hunter-gatherer studies, and continued specializing in Paleoindian archaeology.

### ***What type of job do you have within the discipline of archaeology?***

I am an Archaeology Collections Assistant and Research Archaeologist at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. I work primarily on archaeological collections owned by federal agencies and field projects on land managed by federal agencies.

### ***What types of projects do you participate in routinely?***

I routinely participate in cataloging and curating artifacts, or preparing them for curation at the SHSND facility. I analyze materials including stone tools, chipped stone flaking debris, groundstone tools, Native American ceramics, bone tools, and unmodified animal bone, to name a few. I am currently finishing up analysis and write-up of a Mandan hunting camp on the Heart River called the Beadmaker site. When I'm lucky, I get to do fieldwork.

### ***Where have you conducted archaeological projects?***

I have conducted archaeological fieldwork in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Oklahoma. I have also been fortunate to work on a Middle Stone Age site in northwestern Ethiopia and assist with artifact processing at the National Museum of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa.

### ***What place(s) would you like to conduct an archaeological project(s) if you could go anywhere?***

I have always been fascinated with the archaeology of the Middle East and Egypt, but honestly I would pursue archaeological projects anywhere because I love to travel and learn about other cultures and places.

### ***Do you have a favorite topic(s)/interest(s) in archaeology?***

Technology and technological change, settlement patterns, human-environment interactions, and the built environment (household archaeology and community organization).

### ***Why do you think organizations like the NDAA are important?***

The NDAA is a great way to bring professional and avocational archaeologists together to share information about human history in the state. It's an important venue for promoting heritage preservation, public education, and responsible stewardship of the archaeological record. (continued, p. 8)

## Member Profile: Brooke Morgan (*continued*)



Above: Brooke Morgan water screening at Chief Looking's Village, 2016  
(Photo courtesy Brooke Morgan)

### ***What do you most enjoy about archaeology?***

The thrill of discovery—not just of artifacts or features at a site, but the feeling I get when I am analyzing data and trying to understand the bigger picture. Some of the most exciting discoveries are made after long, tedious days processing data on the computer. I love that archaeology is always changing, in terms of methodology and how we try to answer questions about human behavior. This means that just because a site or collection was analyzed 25 or 50 years ago doesn't disqualify it from being revisited, reanalyzed, and reinterpreted based on all the new knowledge and methods that we have accumulated during that time span.

### ***Other comments? Additional biographical information—other interests, etc.***

I was recently named Series Editor for *North Dakota Archaeology*, the peer-reviewed journal that is published by the NDAA. We are actively seeking manuscripts for submission\* and our goal is to go to press with the 2018 volume by May.

\*For journal and submission information see pg. 6 or visit [http://www.ndarchaeology.org/nda\\_journal\\_call\\_for\\_submissions.html](http://www.ndarchaeology.org/nda_journal_call_for_submissions.html)

## New Members

***The NDAA would like to extend a warm welcome to all its new members who have recently joined as well as to those who have re-joined after an extended leave! Thank you for being a part of the NDAA!***

John Bluemle of Bismarck ND  
Justin Deegan of Stanton, ND  
Alisha Deegan of Stanton, ND  
Alejandro Figueroa of State College, PA  
Whitney Goodwin of Dallas, TX  
Justin Hauff of Bismarck, ND

William Harding of Bismarck, ND  
Travis Jones of Winterville, GA  
Jeremy Menzer of Fayetteville, AK  
Dallas Schneider of Bismarck, ND  
Gary Wowchuck of Swan River, Manitoba

## Paul's Picks: Books for 2017

By Paul Picha



As it is that merry time of the year ripe for gift giving, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a triad of recent publications that NDAA members might like to add to their holiday book wish lists. Devotees of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Western Americana will be delighted and amply rewarded with each. As both essential reference and general works, the Trans-Mississippi West and its peoples, places, and predicaments remain front and center. (continued, p. 9)

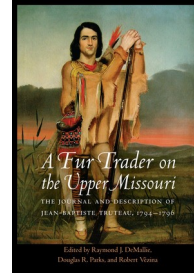
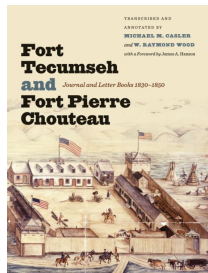
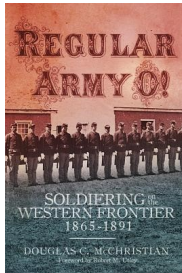


## Paul's Picks: Books for 2017 (continued)

Douglas C. McChristian, Foreword by Robert M. Utley, *Regular Army O!: Soldiering on the Western Frontier, 1865-1891*. (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2017, \$45.00, Hardcover).

Michael W. Casler and W. Raymond Wood, Transcribed and Annotated by, *Fort Tecumseh and Fort Pierre Choteau: Journal and Letterbooks, 1830-1850*. (South Dakota Historical Society Press, Pierre, 2017, \$29.95, Paper).

Raymond J. DeMallie, Douglas R. Parks, and Robert Vézina, Editors, *A Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri: The Journal and Description of Jean Baptiste-Truteau, 1794-1796*. (University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 2017, \$100.00, Hardcover).



## NDAА T-shirts



Still working on that holiday shopping list?

Looking for a unique gift? Consider buying NDAА t-shirts for friends and family.

*The long-sleeved shirts have already sold out!* But winter won't last forever. Plan for the future and invest in a T-shirt today.

T-shirts are \$15 each. They are available in gray or sand colors. Sizes come in S, M, L, XL, and XXL, while supplies last!

*Far Left — NDAА member and Architectural Historian Emily Sakariassen wearing the NDAА shirt in gray; Near Left — NDAА T-shirts in gray (top) and sand (bottom) (Photos by Amie Kaiser)*



To place an order, contact Amie Kaiser at:  
[akasier@metcalfarchaeology.com](mailto:akasier@metcalfarchaeology.com)

Please make checks to **NDAА** and mail to:  
Amie Kaiser  
NDAА Secretary/Treasurer  
c/o Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2154  
Bismarck, ND 58502



## 2017 Cynthia Kordecki Scholarship Award Recipients

By Wendi Field Murray

The Cynthia Kordecki Research Scholarship Committee received four competitive applications this year for two \$1000 awards. This year's recipients are Whitney Goodwin, a PhD candidate at Southern Methodist University, and Travis Jones, a PhD candidate at the University of Georgia.

Whitney's research investigates the viability of lipid residue analysis on ceramic sherds from archaeological sites in North Dakota. As lipids (fats and fatty acids) are present in nearly all foods, lipid residue analysis can shed light on everything from diet to technological change. She will be using the funds to travel to the Organic Geochemistry Laboratory at Baylor University in Waco, TX, where she will conduct further analysis. Whitney will be sharing the results of her research with the membership through our journal and/or the NDAA Newsletter.

Travis's research seeks to better understand social interaction, warfare, settlement, and exchange amongst the earliest villages of North and South Dakota (AD 900 – 1300). To better understand the timing of these processes, his work will establish a refined chronology based on AMS radiocarbon dating of faunal and botanical samples from early village sites. He will use the funds to travel to Bismarck in Spring 2018 and analyze several collections that are curated at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Travis will be sharing the results of his research with the membership through our journal, *North Dakota Archaeology*.

The scholarship is meeting the attention of scholars around the country, owing in part to the contacts we made while participating at this year's Plains Anthropological Conference in Bismarck. Since 2015, the NDAA's Cynthia Kordecki Scholarship has contributed to one archaeology summer camp, two independent research projects, and four dissertations. Please help keep this momentum going, and consider donating to the scholarship fund today! We are only able to provide awards as donations allow, and we have already received inquiries about the next round. Through this scholarship, the NDAA is directly contributing to research that expands our knowledge of North Dakota's human past – let's keep it up!

### Please Donate to the Cynthia Kordecki Scholarship!

To continue making these grants available (and ultimately receive presentations and articles related to the research) the Cynthia Kordecki Scholarship Fund will need contributions to continue granting scholarships in 2018.

Are you looking to make a charitable contribution before the end of the year? Please consider a tax-exempt donation to the scholarship fund.

The North Dakota Archaeological Association (NDAA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit organization that promotes the scientific investigation, preservation, and publication of archaeological research.

Please write your check to the **NDAA** and note "Cynthia Kordecki Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. Mail donations to:



Amie Kaiser  
NDAA Secretary/Treasurer  
c/o Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2154  
Bismarck, ND 58502



## 2017 Scholarship Donors

*The NDAA wishes to thank all those who have donated to the Cynthia Kordecki Scholarship this year—you make research & educational opportunities possible!*

**Amy Bleier  
Marlene K. Frei  
Erik & Susan Holland  
Amie Kaiser**

**Lesley Kordecki  
Jennifer Lemming  
Mark Mitchell  
Wendi Field Murray**

**Paul Picha  
Timothy Reed  
Meagan Schoenfelder  
Douglas Wurtz**

## Membership & Renewal Information



2018 is almost here—and so is the time to renew your NDAA membership! If you haven't already paid your membership for 2018, beat the new year rush and renew now!

### Benefits include:

- A subscription to the quarterly NDAA newsletter\*  
*includes announcements, opportunities, and news*
- A subscription to *North Dakota Archaeology*  
*a peer reviewed occasional journal with articles about regional archaeology*
- Access to the NDAA Lending Library  
*700+ titles on archaeology, anthropology, and history*
- NDAA Spring Annual Meeting
- NDAA Fall Field Trips  
*an opportunity to visit different regions of North Dakota and learn about local archaeological topics*
- Other Field Trips, Lectures, and Activities  
*as requested and presented by our membership*

Please make checks payable to **NDAA**. Please copy or print the information below, complete the information, and mail along with payment to:

Amie Kaiser  
NDAA Membership  
c/o Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2154  
Bismarck, ND 58502

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a New ( ) or Renewal ( ) membership?

Membership Category:

Individual \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 USD per calendar year)

Institutional \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40.00 USD per calendar year)

*\*the NDAA newsletter will be provided via email, unless otherwise requested*



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NDAA on Facebook!

Visit our website at:

<http://www.ndarchaeology.org/>

Questions? Suggestions?  
Email us at [ndaainfo@gmail.com](mailto:ndaainfo@gmail.com)



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